

## New York Tribune.

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## Guarding Against Inflation.

The administration currency bill has been improved by the latest amendments. Those responsible for the measure have acknowledged the force of Senator Root's criticisms to the extent of stiffening the reserve requirements against the issue of banknotes. The reserve required is not as large as that suggested by Mr. Root, nor is the tax upon deficiencies in the reserve made as heavy as the one he proposed, but the plan is much safer for the change agreed upon.

The most important check upon inflation will be furnished by the necessity of maintaining reserves against note issues. Whenever there is a tendency for gold to leave the country the expansion of the currency will be stopped if a reserve in gold of not less than 32½ per cent has to be maintained and a tax is being paid upon the deficiency under 40 per cent.

Increasing the proposed salary of members of the Federal Reserve Board from \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year shows a growing sense of the importance of that board's functions. The framers of the bill started out with the notion that these were such as could be performed by Cabinet officers whose hands were full of work in their own departments. Now the board is to be made up of men who, with the exception of the Secretary of the Treasury, can devote their entire time to its work. The salary now proposed is still too small to attract men with the banking skill and experience fitting them for the immense responsibilities of controlling and regulating the currency system of the country. That, with uncertainty of tenure, is bound to be one weakness of any central banking contrivance adopted here compared with European central banks.

If the spirit which prevailed in the Democratic caucus on Wednesday night would only make itself further felt an entirely acceptable currency bill might be adopted. Some other Bryanite blemishes remain to be removed. There is no public demand for the insurance of deposits. That plan has failed where it has been tried and it has been rejected by the good sense of the nation generally. Its presence in the bill is a sop to Bryanism. So, too, is the provision making the banknotes obligations of the federal government. This is a survival of greenbackism. An excessive number of regional reserve institutions will also be a mistake. The system should be started with only as many such institutions as might reasonably be expected to be strong at the outset. If it should prove desirable to add to their number this should be done from time to time as the need developed.

## Governor Glynn His Own Boss.

Governor Glynn's twofold declaration of independence of Murphy of Tammany and President Wilson is quite in line with the position he has taken ever since he was pitchforked into the responsibilities of the Governor's office. He holds the unusual, but entirely logical, view that the Chief Executive of New York State should be nobody's man. "I believe the State of New York," says he, "is too big to be the tail to the national administration's kite or the annex of Tammany Hall." That being the case, the Governor of the state must be big enough to be his own man; and it is quite apparent that Martin Glynn intends to be Martin Glynn's man.

It is rather advanced political ground—in practice, Governor Hughes practised it as well as preached it. He was never suspected of being controlled by his party's machine or anybody in the party. He acknowledged obligations to the people who had elected him, and took his case to the people every time. As a result he was strong with them to an extent surpassing the strength of any recent Governor. Governor Glynn is not unskilled or inexperienced in politics. He is not blind to the advantages of having "the organization" with him. But neither is he blind to the fact that the people, above all else, demand from an Executive his own acts, his own policies, himself, in fact, not the diluted and handed down policies and ideas of some super-executive, alias boss. And after the Hughes record no man in this state can be blind to the advantages of public support rather than "organization" support. Governor Glynn has chosen to make it perfectly plain that he wants the people with him, and intends to do everything he can do honestly and honorably to have them with him. He can go far on that basis.

## Exclusion of Asiatics.

The giving of a hearing on the exclusion of Asiatic races, in connection with the pending immigration bill, will revive vigorous and even impassioned controversy over a matter which after a generation of dispute is increasingly troublesome and formidable. There may be some consolation, however, in the fact that the United States is not alone involved in the problem, and indeed is not as deeply involved as are some other countries.

Canada, for example, purposes to prohibit, at least for a time, all Asiatic immigration. The prohibition is chiefly aimed at the Japanese, but in order to avoid invidious discrimination it is made general in terms, so as to exclude not only the Japanese, who are the allies of the British Empire, but also the Hindus, who are actually members of that empire. The case of South Africa is still more flagrant, for there discrimination is made directly against Hindus. It is exclusion not of aliens but of fellow citizens or subjects of the common empire.

There is no occasion for censoriousness on the part of other nations. Their realms are not subjected to any considerable Asiatic influx, as are the United States and four great divisions of the British Empire. If they were they would probably assume very much the same attitude that these do. Indeed, we are inclined to think that if an Asiatic country were threatened with an American or Eu-

ropean invasion which would seriously affect its social or economic system it would pretty promptly consider ways and means of exclusion.

The question of the migration of races is in brief of world-wide importance, and is to be considered from that point of view and not as a mere "local issue" or as a manifestation of individual prejudice or intolerance. It is not merely national but ethnic.

## The Indigestible Fruits of Victory.

The suggestion of our Mayor-elect that New York ought to have two Mayors—one to attend dinners and one to sit on the job—has a painful amount of truth in it. We select a perfectly good Mayor. Then we pile an impossible mountain of work on him. And as he begins to bore his way through the mountain we suggest that he drop in at a batch of dinners and utter a few happy thoughts.

As a matter of fact, what is more important than a Mayor's digestion? A cheerful, contented Mayor who enjoys his vicarious make life in a great city almost endurable. Also vice versa. The fruits of victory should certainly not be made any more indigestible than they are by nature.

So we heartily approve of the idea of an after-dinner Mayor. Or, rather, we should approve of it did not a much better solution offer. Why not simply abolish all banquets? It is a pleasure to step down amid such tumultuous applause.

## Beginnings for Prison Reform.

Before the indeterminate sentence plan which Thomas Mott Osborne advocates as the chief thing in a programme of prison reforms can be successful in this state other things must be greatly bettered. It is eminently desirable that the prison system be based on an idea of benefiting or reforming the inmates as well as of punishing them, and that when they have been bettered they be released. The state is experimenting with this idea now in its parole system.

But the prisons, as maintained and administered, and the penitentiaries and county jails are anything but reform agencies. The minor establishments are too frequently merely preparatory schools for the state prisons. In the penitentiaries or workhouses the unfortunates learn the higher degrees of crime which lead from disorderly conduct to commission of felonies. It is highly necessary that the physical surroundings and moral atmosphere of the prisons be changed before going much further with indeterminate sentences. Clean and sanitary cells, decent food, internal regulations permitting exercise, amusement and human society will serve as the proper foundation for the improvement which the indeterminate sentence contemplates. And they never will prove attractive enough, as some defenders of the existing order seem to think, to endear the prisons to the prisoners.

## The Most Interesting Thing in the World.

You will get an odd sensation from Mr. Henry Holt's new quarterly, which he has carefully named "The Unpopular Review." It is delightfully printed, sitting lightly in the hand after the manner of an English volume instead of lying there like so much wet dough, as does a bulky American-made book. Also, the articles are upon thoroughly engaging subjects. The first impression is entirely favorable.

Yet the magazine has a blank expression and leaves one oddly cold. After turning over a few pages you wonder what the trouble is. Presently you discover the secret. Upon some theory all his own Mr. Holt has kept names out of his volume. Every article in the magazine is anonymous.

It is an interesting experiment. But we very much fear that Mr. Holt has done the one thing to justify all too well his title of "The Unpopular Review." Human beings are far and away the most interesting things in this world of ours. Even literature of the highest art is inseparable from its maker. As for the casual magazine article, the personality of the author is of its essence—often its one reason and excuse.

"How about a newspaper?" Well, a newspaper possesses, or should possess, a collective personality of its own, which more than makes up for the absence of individuals. Besides, there must be one exception to prove a rule, anyway.

## The "Newest" Dances.

There are many debaters and not a few lifted eyebrows over Canon Chase's plan to teach dancing in the parish house of his church in Brooklyn. But why is he not doing the simple and sensible thing?

Instead of damming all the new dancing, world without end, he recognizes the wholesomeness and beauty of much of it and proposes to let the church direct its course. The tango and the trot in their objectionable forms will not be taught. In their place will be offered what Canon Chase terms the "newest dances"—which will have all the freedom of the new dances without their "ugly and degrading features."

Such a leadership can do a real service. The new era in dancing has come to stay for the grace and pleasure and good health that it brings. The sooner its early crudities are ended the better.

## Further Postal Developments.

The gratifying success of the parcel post, following that of the postal savings bank and, still earlier, the rural free delivery, naturally suggests further extension of the activities of the Postoffice, which Mr. Burleson seems to think would best be effected in the direction of governmental acquisition of the telegraphs and telephones.

The analogy of the mails undoubtedly favors governmental operation of the wires and the wireless systems. So does the example of many other countries. Analogy is not, however, a safe guide, and it remains to be shown that the actual experience of other countries demonstrates the superiority of public over private proprietorship to such an extent as would warrant the making of the change here.

It is to be borne in mind, too, that governmental service in some other countries is based upon a theory exactly the reverse of ours. Their theory is that the government should be comprehensively paternal, and so should do just as much as possible. The American principle is that everything should be left to private initiative which the general welfare does not require to be done by the government or which the government cannot do very much better than private individuals or corporations. The burden of proof of one of these latter conditions therefore rests with the advocates of the change.

There will also be raised with more earnestness the question whether further improvement of the mail carrying service is not desirable before the department takes up entirely different forms of work. There are strong demands for the reduction of the unit of letter postage from two cents to one cent, for the admission of printed matter to the parcel post, for the universal extension of rural free delivery, and what not. The question of chief present

pertinence seems to be whether these matters are not more urgent than the taking over of vast enterprises which are now quite separate and which under their present management are certainly not so ill conducted as to provoke an irresistible demand for relief.

Mr. Hedley commends the "skill and politeness" of his subway employees. The skill of the sardine packer is evident enough, but the politeness? Where? When?

The "new freedom" doesn't comprise freedom to make jokes at the expense of its author.

## THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"Write it down and go to sleep." That simple announcement on the newest thing for the sleepless business man attracts much attention to a window in a jewelry shop. The novelty is a leather-bound pad of paper with a tiny electric lamp throwing its gleams across the sheet from underneath a small shade. It suggests relief from one cause of insomnia.

The Pullet—They say the ostrich can run faster than any other bird.  
The Turkey—Mebbe so. But, anyhow, I hold the trotting record.—Chicago Daily News.

During the recent international polo matches at Cedarhurst a sporting editor invited one of the office boys to go with him to the match between the Yankees and the Hurlingham team. In one of the periods between chukkers the sporting editor turned to the office boy and asked: "Well, how do you like it, Andy?" "It's all right," replied the copy chaser, "but I don't like it as well as the regular horse races."

"Pa had the last word in an argument with ma as usual last night."  
"The last word, as usual?"  
"Yes. He apologized again."—Detroit Free Press.

The holiday rush was on in a big department store near 34th street. The elevator was jammed, when a woman who suffers from absent mindedness got on at the ground floor. As it went up the colored elevator man announced the floors. The woman wanted to get out at the fifth floor. She woke from her reverie just in time to hear the last words of "Fifth floor! Groceries, sporting goods, toys! Fifth floor!"

"Oh," she said to the colored man, "is this 'five'?"

He turned to look at her. "Yes, ma'am," he said. "Fifth am jus' de same as 'five.'"

"Are you a professor of mathematics?" asked Mr. Cumrox.

"I am," said Mr. Hibrow. "Surely you do not think of taking up the study?"

"Yes, I do. I want to plod patiently through algebra, calculus, logarithms and all the rest of the outfit. After that maybe I'll feel competent to figure out my income tax."—Washington Star.

## UNSCRAMBLING THE MUNSEY MERGER.

From The Philadelphia Inquirer.

As a result of the criticism elicited by the circumstances under which the United States Trust Company, of Washington, was lately taken over by the Munsey Trust Company, of the same city, it is reported that efforts are being made by or at the instance of the Treasury Department to set aside the arrangements which were effected and to reinstate the first named company in the possession of its property. It will be well if this can be accomplished. . . . Yet it does not follow that if it were done the incident of the merger would be definitely closed. Irregularities have to all appearances been committed which need to be explained. . . .

It is alleged that eleven clearing house bankers were induced to apply for an advance from the Treasury Department of \$99,000 each, which advance they undertook to transfer to the Munsey company, the purpose of this proceeding being to evade the law which prohibits the deposit of Treasury funds in the manner proposed. It is stated that John Skelton Williams, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, by whom these various operations are said to have been conducted, is a brother to R. Lancaster Williams, who is associated with Mr. Munsey in his financial enterprises, and it is intimated that the actions in the premises of the Assistant Secretary were prompted or influenced by fraternal regard, that he strained a point or several points for his brother's benefit. These are aspersions under which John Skelton Williams cannot afford to lie. He occupies a position of great financial responsibility. He aspires to membership in the Federal Reserve Board, . . . and so there are a number of weighty reasons why Mr. Williams should clear his skirts in the present connection. . . . A mere unscrambling of the Munsey omelet will not have that effect.



MURPHY—In that case I'm no dictator.

## THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

## THE TRIUMPHS OF MR. WILSON

What the Policy of Watchful Waiting Has Accomplished in Mexico.

To the Editor of The Tribune:  
Sir: In pursuance of his "policy" toward Mexico President Wilson has recently achieved several vicarious triumphs. Through the activity and energy of one Francisco Villa, a product of "constitutionalism" as interpreted by Carranza and encouraged by Washington, the city of Juarez has been captured and one hundred and fifty prisoners wantonly slain in sight of the citizens of El Paso, Tex. In Juarez fourteen Spanish subjects, non-combatants, were shot down in cold blood, and, finally, the long list of barbaric outrages committed in Chihuahua has come to crown the work of the group of rebels who are receiving support from the United States authorities, not only on the frontier, but directly from Washington.

Thus the first fruit of "watchful waiting" is being harvested and the first triumphs of the higher morality are becoming known to the American public, and perhaps now, in the full light of that "glorious publicity" mentioned by President Wilson, that same public will begin to realize the full significance of what such a policy and such a victory mean not to the people of Mexico alone, but to civilization. How much longer will the American people permit the starchy banner to be defiled by being made the symbol on this side of the border of the deeds of Villa, the outlawed assassin?  
C. U. MESTA.  
Baltimore, Dec. 17, 1913.

## "WHITE SLAVERY" ON THE STAGE

Miss Spooner's Play, "The House of Bondage," Is Defended.

To the Editor of The Tribune:  
Sir: As a constant reader of your paper, you will I hope, permit space for these few lines on a subject that is at its fullest height to-day—that of "white slavery."  
After seeing "The House of Bondage," the play that was stopped by the police authorities, but later resumed, I undoubtedly believe that every man and woman who witnessed this play at the Cecil Spooner Theatre knew that they were taught a moral lesson and that their children would also share it with them. There is nothing tenuous or indecent about this play, and it should receive encouragement from all humanity, in its teaching, and certainly Cecil Spooner deserves the commendation of all citizens. I believe that every good, intelligent citizen should help to instigate the cause against "white slavery," and surely these few lines on a subject that is at its fullest height to-day—that of "white slavery," are not unwelcome.

MARCUS ALEXANDER.  
New York, Dec. 17, 1913.

## IN DEFENCE OF A CLASSIC

Amateur Researcher in Wake of "The Capital Ship."

To the Editor of The Tribune:  
Sir: In the name of Education and Literature (spelled with capitals) I beg to protest against the corrupt version of "The Walloping Window Blind" sent you yesterday by "H. L." from that seat of supposed learning—New Haven, Conn. Your correspondent quotes the classic ballad from a "collection of songs sung by the boys of Grotton School."

If this is a fair example of the kind of textbooks used at that school the name of no offspring of mine shall ever be inscribed upon its waiting list. In order to find the true and original version of the ballad I have consulted the red-bound set of "St. Nicholas" volumes which stretches all the way from my children's nursery (1913) back into my own (1880). The familiar lines are on pages 158 and 160 of "St. Nicholas" for January, 1885. The song is printed without title, in the text of that valuable prose work entitled, "Davy and the Goblin," written by Charles E. Car-

roll, author also of "The Admiral's Caravan," and illustrated with pictures every line and shadow of which I know by heart.

Those who consult Chapter VII of "Davy and the Goblin" in book form (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1885) will find eight later lines that seem never to have been heard of at Grotton and New Haven. Here is the classic in its final authentic form. I have italicized these eight lines:

I.  
A capital ship for an ocean trip  
Was "The Walloping Window Blind!"  
No gale that blew dismayed her crew  
Or troubled the captain's mind!  
The man at the wheel was taught to  
Contempt for the wildest blow.  
And it often appeared when the weather  
Had cleared  
That he'd been in his bunk below.

II.  
The boatwain's mate was very sedate,  
Yet fond of amusement, too;  
And he played hop-scotch with the star-board watch.  
While the captain tickled the crew,  
And the gunner we had was apparently  
mad.  
For he sat on the after rail  
And fired salutes with the captain's  
In the teeth of the booming gale.

III.  
The captain sat in a commodore's hat  
And dined in a royal way  
On roasted pigs and pickles and figs,  
And gummy bread each day.  
But the cook was Dutch and behaved  
as such.  
For the diet he gave the crew  
Was a number of tons of hot-cross buns  
Chopped up with sugar and glue.

IV.  
And we all felt all as mariners will,  
On a diet that's cheap and rude;  
And we shivered and shook as we dipped  
the cork  
In a tub of his glaucous food.  
Then nautical pride we laid aside,  
And we cast the vessel ashore  
On the chilly isles, where the Foo-poooh  
smiles.  
And the Anagazanders roar.

V.  
Composed of sand was that favored land  
And traversed with cinnamon straws;  
And pink and blue was the pleasing hue  
Of the tickle-toe-ee's claws.  
And we sat on the edge of a sandy  
ledge  
And sat at the whistling bee;  
And the Binnacle-bats were waterproof  
hats  
As they danced in the sounding sea.

VI.  
On rubagub bark, from dawn till dark,  
We fed till we all had grown  
Uncommonly shrunk—till a Chinese junk  
Came by from the Torribby zone.  
She was stubby and square, but we  
didn't much care,  
And we cheerily put to sea;  
And we left the crew of the junk to  
The bark of the rubagub tree.

By comparing the above with the version "H. L." sent in you will detect a great number of serious differences. For example, think of the outrage against Poetry in teaching schoolboys to sing:

"And the rubbly Uddags roar,"  
when the "St. Nicholas" version is:  
"And the Rumbletumbunders roar,"  
and when in the final reading of the book the poet has written:  
"And the Anagazanders roar!"

And how can young minds be trained in accuracy and an abhorrence of nature-faking if they are permitted to confuse rubagub trees with things called "Rugby trees," which, of course, never existed.

You will note also that the chorus is not Carry's at all. Very likely it is a parody on a chorus of some old sea ballad that has been tacked on to these verses of blessed memory.

"Davy and the Goblin" in "St. Nicholas" does not, by the way, contain the charming dedication found in the book. The dedication recites the fact that the tale is spun of stories told long since to Guy, the author's son, and closes with these lines:

"Would that the glamour of those cloud-  
less days  
Might cheer thee still, what time the  
tollstone mase  
Of ripper years hath banished fairy lore  
And blithesome youth hath fled to come  
no more."  
JOSEPH RODMAN.  
New York, Dec. 14, 1913.

## IN THE NAME OF LINCOLN

An Old Republican Sends Help to a Relative of the President.

To the Editor of The Tribune:  
Sir: It was with feelings of sadness that I read in this morning's Tribune of the destitute condition of John W. Lattimore, soldier, scholar and relative of the greatest President the United States ever had—Abraham Lincoln.

I enclose herewith \$5, and only wish it were \$500, to help Mr. Lattimore in his dire misfortune. I am of the opinion that if the people of this country knew of his suffering they would not permit him long to remain in his sad plight. Will you kindly see that the \$5 reaches Mr. Lattimore?

Your dispatch on the first page of The Tribune to-day states that Mr. Lattimore lives in a tiny cottage in the Garvanza Hills, Los Angeles, Cal.

I think if you will kindly publish this letter in your people's column that aid will speedily be forthcoming.  
PATRICK FRANCIS MCCORMICK.  
An oldtime reader of The New York Tribune and a voter who cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, in 1860.  
New York, Dec. 17, 1913.

[The Tribune has forwarded Mr. McCormick's \$5 to Mr. Lattimore.—Ed.]

## REPUBLICAN REFORM

Some Editorial Comment on the National Committee Meeting.

MORE REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATIONS.

From The Springfield Republican.  
The important thing touching the Republican future is that the committee to a man is ready to change the basis of representation in future conventions so that there shall be an escape from the scandal of unrepresentative delegations from Southern states. Time and again has there been demand in national conventions for this reform, but as frequently have the exigencies of candidates for the Presidency availed to defeat action.

## THE SPECIAL CONVENTION PLAN.

From The Waterbury Times.  
It is judged that there will be general disappointment in the Republican party that the committee determined not to call a special convention. It could have been made a harmonizing affair, a get-together event before the election of delegates to the final convention. For once Mr. Barnes was right in arguing strongly for such a convention.

## SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIONS.

From The Boston Herald.  
Southern delegates in the Republican conventions have no party behind them. They represent simply a skeleton organization of expectant officeholders. They give the Republican party no support in the Electoral College. They contribute nothing to its sanity or its success.

## REORGANIZATION AND REUNION.

From The Buffalo Express.  
But the party will be reformed and the party will be reunited, despite the bullying of these rival sets of politicians. The Republican party may wait to see how far the National Committee is willing to go in the way of reform before doing the work itself, or it may go together without the sanction of the National Committee. If the plan proposed by the committee is not satisfactory to the reform element in the party, the Republican party will be called together in national convention, a new declaration of principles adopted and a new National Committee chosen.

## WELCOMING THE PRODIGALS.

From The Buffalo Commercial.  
The party must clean house and put it in order. It must be prepared to welcome back to the fold all who desire to come back. Those who deserted the party because it did not take up the unrepentant and socialist doctrines of Colonel Roosevelt must stay where they are or abandon their principles. Oil and water will not mix, and it will be useless to make the attempt.